

Woman was stabbed 20 times, strangled

R JAN 28 1981
The Register's Iowa News Service

FORT DODGE, IA. — Webster County Medical Examiner Daniel Cole said Tuesday that a 22-year-old woman died here last weekend due to strangulation and 20 stab wounds.

Cole said the conclusions were drawn from autopsy tests on the body of Angela Marie Altman, who was found Saturday afternoon lying on the floor of her home near the downtown area.

Meanwhile Tuesday, a juvenile court judge ruled after a detention hearing that Everett Dial, 16, charged with first-degree murder in the incident, will remain in custody. The purpose of the hearing was to determine if Dial would remain in a juvenile detention facility or be released to a parent.

TEEN CHARGED WITH MURDER

R JAN 27 1981
The Register's Iowa News Service

FORT DODGE, IA. — A 16-year-old youth was charged with first-degree murder Monday in the stabbing death of a 22-year-old Fort Dodge woman.

Webster County authorities filed the charge against Everett Dial, son of Melvina Bell. He was taken into custody after Angela Marie Altman was found lying on the floor of her home Saturday.

The official cause of death is awaiting completion of autopsy tests. The victim's body bore several stab wounds in the abdomen.

A detention hearing has been scheduled for today in juvenile court to determine if the youth will remain in the juvenile detention facility while awaiting trial, or whether he will be released to his mother, according to Monty Fisher, Webster County attorney. The hearing also will determine if there is probable cause that the juvenile committed a delinquent act.



FORT DODGE WOMAN SLAIN

R JAN 26 1981
The Register's Iowa News Service

The body of a young Fort Dodge woman was found in her home Saturday, and a male juvenile is being held in connection with her death.

The apparent stabbing victim was identified as Angela Marie Altman, about 22. Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation agents probing the incident were treating it as a homicide.

Webster County authorities said an autopsy has been performed, but the exact cause of death has not been determined. However, DCI chief Gerald Shanahan said Altman, found lying on the floor of her home on the southwest edge of the business district, had several stab wounds in the abdomen.

Shanahan said the 16-year-old youth was taken into custody, but no charges had been filed as of Sunday evening. He said a warrant was issued to search a residence where it was believed the youth resided. Shanahan declined to comment when asked if a weapon had been recovered.

The body was discovered about 3:20 p.m. after police received a telephone call from a relative of the victim.



Bandit Kills Tavern Man

11-10-32
IOWA CITY, IA. (AP)—Edward Kriz, 43, owner-operator of an Iowa City tavern, was shot fatally early Saturday by a young man wearing a Halloween mask.

Kriz died at a hospital soon after the shooting, which occurred about 1:45 a. m.

Kriz, his wife and an employe had gone to a restaurant after closing the tavern. As they left the restaurant by a back door, they encountered the gunman.

Downtown

George's Buffet Tavern, which Kriz operates at 312 Market st., is only a few blocks from Hamburg Inn No. 2 at 214 N. Linn, where the three had been eating. Both places are in the downtown area.

Police said they believed that the masked youth, about 17 or 18 years old had intended to rob the restaurant. Without provocation, authorities said, the youth fired three shots.

Hit Twice

One of the shots grazed one of Kriz's legs and hit a foot. Another struck an arm and passed into his chest. A third shot hit a door frame.

The gunman, wearing dark clothing, fled on foot. Police were checking a report that a man was seen to run across a yard in the neighborhood and jump into a small foreign car, which sped away.

The killing of a 'sweet lady'

SEP 22 1976
By Gene Erb

(Tribune Staff Writer)

WAUKEE, IA. — Emma Lewis, 80, was a shy, friendly woman. She was only about 5 feet 3 and weighed no more than 100 pounds.

Her eyesight was failing. In fact, she was legally blind. According to friends, relatives and neighbors, she wouldn't hurt or say harsh words about anyone. She used to invite neighbor children to pick flowers from her garden.

The widow of a coal miner, she was a woman of modest means. She always kept the doors locked. Clifford Applegate, a neighbor, said: "I don't think I was in her house but once or twice in the 15 years we've lived next door."

Yet, a week ago Monday, between 7 and 7:30 p.m., someone entered her small, well-kept white frame house here and beat her to death — apparently for what little money she might have had in her purse.

Emma's body was found by a close friend, Phyllis Hinkson, 57, of Waukee, lying face-up on the floor near the bathroom.

The time was shortly after 9 p.m.



Emma Lewis

Emma had "drowned in her own blood" from multiple face and head wounds, an autopsy showed. Blood from the wounds had blocked her nasal passage and windpipe.

Police, Dallas County sheriff's officers and Iowa Bureau of Criminal In-

vestigation (BCI) agents have been baffled by the slaying.

They said they have no suspects. No weapon was found. There were no signs of forcible entry. The only indication of a motive is Emma's still-missing purse.

Sheriff Robert DeCamp said investigators haven't determined whether Emma was beaten with fists, or bludgeoned to death.

The slaying and dearth of clues have upset some of the 1,500 residents of this community about 12 miles west of Des Moines. A few — mostly widows like Emma — are afraid to stay alone at night.

"They (law enforcement officials) didn't find a thing in that house out of place," said Applegate, 62, Emma's neighbor. "They didn't even find any suspicious fingerprints, I don't think. All they told me was that they had some palm prints that couldn't be used for identification."

Applegate, who is retired, said the last time he saw Emma alive was about 2:30 p.m. that Monday when she

left the house to do some shopping. He figures she was home by 3:15 "because she never stayed uptown more than 45 minutes."

Applegate said he and his wife, Alene, 59, went to Ankeny at about 5 p.m. to visit some friends, and when they returned home around 10 o'clock there were "police cars everywhere."

They were there in response to a call from Phyllis Hinkson, who had phoned Emma about 8 p.m. to remind her of a doctor's appointment the following day. There was no answer. When Hinkson called at 9 p.m. and there was still no answer, she became worried and drove over to the house.

Door open

She found the porch light on and the front door open.

Said Applegate: "I just don't understand it. She was very cautious. Even myself, if I went over to see her about something, she would talk to me through the door."

Brick Volkmer, 32, who works for a Des Moines food store and lives across the street, said, "I can't figure out why they'd beat her that way. She was just a little bitty gal."

Applegate's wife, Alene, said: "She always said she hoped to stay in her home until she couldn't see to take care of herself, and then she supposed she would have to go to a nursing home."

The Applegates' daughter, Beverly Rafschol, 25, visiting from Minneapolis, said everyone she grew up with liked Emma because Emma "liked all kids." Beverly said that just a few weeks ago Emma invited her 19-month-old son, Aaron, over to her yard to pick some flowers.

Applegate said there are a number of coal miner's widows living alone in Waukee, and many of them are upset and nervous about what has happened.

"We all are, and will be glad when they pick someone up. But I think it has to be hardest on the older women living alone, and there are at least five of them in our neighborhood," he said.

One widow in the neighborhood, Helen Leimer, 70, stays in her son's nearby home at night, and she will until the killer is found.

Mrs. Leimer, one of Emma's close friends, described Emma as a timid woman.

"I'd go to the senior citizen's center, but I never could get Emma to go," said Mrs. Leimer. "It made her nervous, the crowds. She wasn't one to go out."

"She was a very quiet woman. I don't

think she ever did anybody any harm. But she was very independent, too. She didn't want anything from anybody for free.

"I remember one time a young person took us into town (Des Moines) for shopping, and Mrs. Lewis gave me a dollar for the ride. I said, 'You give it to him.' And she said, 'Well, you know him better. You give it to him.'"

"I always told the young people to take the money she offered because it made her feel better."

Emma was born Sept. 2, 1896, in Hiteman, a small coal mining town near Albia in Monroe County. Her father was killed in an accident in the Hiteman mine when she was 6 years old.

Her two surviving sisters — Sigurd Johnson, 82, of Albia and Vera Fisher, 70, of Newton — remember Emma as "a very shy person who never attended social affairs and never would have hurt anyone."

Emma married Ivan Lewis, a coal miner, in Centerville in 1921. They lived in various Monroe County coal mining towns before moving to Waukee in the mid-1940s. Ivan died about 13 years ago. They had no children.

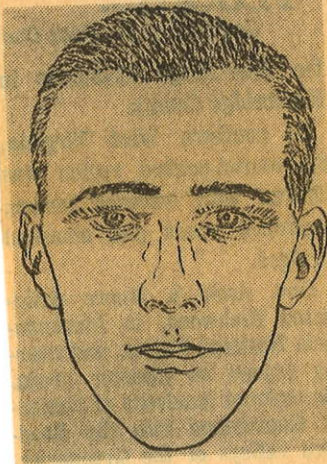
"She was just one sweet little lady," said Applegate. "I don't know how else you could describe her."

DEATH SUSPECT SEEN IN TAVERN

88-21-69
BURLINGTON, IA. — The man suspected of killing Mrs. Dorothy Miller, 48, Burlington real estate agent, was seen in a local tavern the afternoon of the murder, police said Wednesday.



The slaying occurred late Monday in a vacant Burlington house that Mrs. Miller was to have shown to a prospective buyer. Police say the murder



Suspect

Composite drawing of man suspected of killing Mrs. Dorothy Miller, 48, a Burlington real estate saleswoman late Monday, was prepared by Burlington police with the co-operation of Des Moines police. Authorities, who believe the man is from Des Moines, described the suspect as having dark hair, being about 5 feet, 9 to 5 feet, 11 inches tall, and weighing about 175 pounds.

took place between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m.

The suspected killer was seen in a tavern about 4 p.m. Monday, Police Inspector Jim Ewing said.

Officers described the man as dark-haired, 5 feet 9 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall, and weighing about 175 pounds. Police said the man is "good looking" and has a "normal" haircut.

Authorities have been unable to identify the man, but they say they believe he is from the Des Moines area. Ewing said the man told Mrs. Miller he was from Des Moines when he telephoned her for an appointment.

The body of Mrs. Miller, 48, was found in an upstairs closet of the old two-story frame house by police.

Police said she had been sexually molested and stabbed 23 times. She was found lying face down on the floor of the closet, partly disrobed and with her hands tied in front of her.

Police also were searching for a black pick-up truck, believed to have been used by the killer. Ewing said the truck was "unusual" because the paint appeared to be rough "unlike a factory paint job."

The truck was last seen within a half a block of the spot where Mrs. Miller picked up the man from Des Moines, Ewing said.

Suspect spent months at Iowa mental facilities

MURDERS

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youngster, 12-year-old Rodger Warren. The child's body was found Aug. 25, 1979, after he was reported missing by his parents on Aug. 19.

Police found the boy's body in a shallow mound of debris near the Mississippi River. A rope was coiled around his neck.

Davis said a first step for investigators is to determine whether Clark was in custody somewhere at the time of the boy's disappearance, thus ruling him out as a possible suspect in the case.

The death of Rodger Warren was similar to a murder case investigated by Rock Island, Ill., police in 1972 — the murder of 12-year-old Jeff Ramsey.

Jeff Ramsey was found strangled on Arsenal Island in the Mississippi River. The boy's naked body was buried under debris, with a nylon cord wrapped around his neck. He was last seen alive a week earlier when he had left home to watch fishermen on the Rock Island levee.

A Rock Island police detective said Clark probably will not be considered a suspect in that case, unless local authorities learn that he has provided information specifically about that crime.

Patrick Robb, the assistant Buchanan County, Mo., attorney who is prosecuting Clark for the Steele slaying, said Clark's lawyers have told the FBI their client doesn't want to talk further with authorities.

"They cut off the interview yesterday," Robb said Thursday.

Circuit Judge Frank D. Connett Jr. has issued an order stating authorities may not question Clark about the Steele murder unless an attorney representing him is present.

St. Joseph Police Major Lloyd Pasley said Clark was arrested for

the Steele slaying last Aug. 3 at St. Joseph State Hospital, where he had voluntarily turned himself in several days earlier.

"He didn't say a word" when he was arrested, Pasley said.

Maintained Silence

In fact, Clark maintained his silence until this week when he gave a jailer a note saying, "I want to talk to the FBI."

Though he had maintained silence for nine months of captivity, witnesses reported seeing Clark talking to police while they were searching for the missing girl's body.

Officials also said that while Clark was in jail he would assume a fetal position of helplessness when guards strolled past his cell.

But when Clark thought he was not being observed he did calisthenics furiously.

Robb, the assistant Buchanan County attorney, confirmed that Clark "had passed a note to a jailer" and that FBI Agent Joseph Holtslag met with Clark Tuesday and was handed a map and "as a result of the map, a body was found" on Arsenal Island.

One Missouri official, who did not want to be quoted by name, said that apparently Clark knows how to beat the system by being hospitalized for mental illness after he is charged with sex offenses and worse.

Several Months

Records in the Scott County Courthouse in Davenport show that Clark spent several months in state mental facilities in Iowa in recent years.

Court records show that Clark was evaluated at the Iowa Security Medical Facility at Oakdale, following his arrest on a charge of child stealing in the attempted abduction of an 11-year-old boy from a Bettendorf supermarket on July 16, 1981.

Court papers show that his court-appointed lawyer planned to use insanity as a defense against the charge.

Court papers say that when Clark was admitted to Oakdale, he was found to be too "incompetent to assist in his own defense. He was treated with anti-psychotic medication and the catatonic-like state and psychosis have gone into full remission with treatment."

The papers, filed Dec. 7, 1981, said a doctor at the facility concluded that Clark was "now competent to participate in the judicial proceedings."

The papers noted that a report submitted four months earlier by

another psychiatrist indicated that Clark "was suffering from chronic schizophrenia," and added that Clark "has a marked history of psychological and psychiatric illnesses dating back to 1969."

Eventually, the child-stealing charge was dismissed.

The court order dismissing the charge on March 18, 1982, says that yet another psychiatric evaluation indicated that Clark "was likely in a psychotic state at the time of the alleged crime."

The order also notes that Clark "has recently been committed to the Mount Pleasant Mental Health Institute ... [because of] clear and convincing findings that he is suffering from a serious mental impairment."

Other public records in Scott County indicate that Clark was at Mount Pleasant from at least March 18, 1982, until May 7 of that year.

Less than three months later, he

was arrested in St. Joseph and charged with the rape and murder of Michelle Steele.

Previous Occasion

Records in Scott County also indicate that Clark had been at Mount Pleasant on at least one previous occasion — at least from Feb. 27, 1981, until April 7 of that year, about three months before his arrest in Bettendorf.

Lt. Albert Maxey of the Lincoln, Neb., Police Department said Thursday that Clark had been arrested once in Lincoln on a charge of third-degree sexual assault. The arrest stemmed from an October 1980 attack on a 17-year-old client of the Lancaster County Office for the Mentally Retarded.

However, Clark never faced prosecution on the sexual assault charge. Instead, he was admitted to a state institution for the mentally ill in Lincoln, Maxey said.

Ex-mental patient reportedly admits 14 Midwest killings

RMAY 6 1983

By WILLIAM RYBERG,
NICK LAMBERTO
and WILLIAM PETROSKI

Register Staff Writers

DAVENPORT, IA. — Iowa law enforcement officers began reviewing unsolved murder cases Thursday amid reports that a former Iowa mental patient has told FBI agents that he has killed 14 people in the Midwest.

But FBI agents remained tight-lipped about the investigation, which first drew public attention on Tuesday, when agents used a map to locate a body in a shallow grave on Arsenal Island near here.

The FBI said Thursday the remains found on Arsenal Island were those of James L. Churchill, 38, of Lewiston, Ill.

Churchill was last seen in the Rock Island, Ill., area about June 12, 1981, said Joseph Ondrula, special agent in charge of FBI operations in Springfield, Ill.

Ondrula confirmed that FBI agents are interviewing a man in St. Joseph, Mo., who provided information leading to the recovery of Churchill's body.

Authorities in St. Joseph said Thursday that the map was provided by Richard Martin Clark, 53, of Mound City, Mo., who is being held in St. Joseph for first-degree murder in the rape and strangulation death of 11-year-old Michelle Steele.

Confessed

The St. Joseph Gazette and the Quad-City Times of Davenport reported Thursday that Clark apparently has confessed to killing a total of 14 people, including Churchill.

An FBI spokesman in Springfield said the agency had no comment on reports linking Clark to other homicides.

There were no reports indicating that law officers had been able to verify any of Clark's alleged claims about other killings.

Gerald Shanahan, chief of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said Thursday he had contacted the FBI and Missouri officials regarding the claim that Clark had confessed to 14 murders.

"We want to see if some of the claims he's made fit in with any of



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More Quizzed In Sanders Death

Detective Chief R. E. O'Brien said more persons were questioned Monday in connection with the death of Charles Edward Sanders, 68, whose body was found in the Des Moines river Saturday. **4-28-54**

Detectives have quizzed more than 20 "river front characters" in an effort to determine whether Sanders was involved in a fight before his death.

Dr. Walter D. Anderson, coroner, said Sanders had suffered a skull fracture and brain injuries and did not die of drowning as was first believed.

Sanders, a semi-retired painter and paper hanger, lived with a son at 4321 E. Aurora ave.

Twenty Quizzed In Sanders Death

Police continued their investigation Monday into the death of Charles Edward Sanders, 68, whose body was found in the Des Moines River near the Court avenue bridge Saturday morning. **4-19-54**

Detective Chief Robert O'Brien said 20 "river front characters" have been questioned in an effort to determine whether Sanders was involved in a fight in which he was badly injured or killed and then thrown into the river.

Dr. Walter D. Anderson, Polk County coroner, said Sanders died of a skull fracture and brain injuries and did not drown as was first believed.

Sanders, a semiretired painter and paper hanger, was last seen alive Thursday morning in a downtown tavern, O'Brien said.

Sanders lived with a son at 4321 E. Aurora ave.

TELL SLUGGING IN DEATH QUIZ

Investigation into the possible murder of a man identified by police as Charles E. Sanders, 68, whose body was found in the Des Moines river early Saturday, disclosed Sunday that he had been seriously injured in a slugging in the east side business district last Christmas eve.

Detectives quoted a son-in-law, Curtis Walker, of 1147 Oak Park ave., as saying that Sanders was knocked out in the 400 block of Sixth Avenue East the night of Dec. 24, and was found the next day by members of the family in a nearby apartment.

Walker said he was taken to Des Moines General Hospital and then to his home, 4321 E. Aurora ave., where he remained for about a month, recovering from the head injury.

Sanders' body was found under the Court avenue bridge about 6 a. m. Saturday. Police said he was last seen alive Thursday morning, in a tavern.

Dr. Walter D. Anderson, Polk county coroner, said the man suffered a fractured skull and brain injuries and did not die of drowning.

HINT MURDER, NOT DROWNING

Police Saturday night were investigating as "possible murder" the death of a man whose body was found in the Des Moines river earlier in the day. **4-18-54**



Officers tentatively identified the victim as Charles Edward Sanders, 68, who lived with a son, Carver, a justice of the peace, at 4321 E. Aurora ave.

Dr. Walter D. Anderson, Polk county coroner, said the man had suffered a fractured skull and brain injuries and did not die of drowning. There was no water in the man's lungs, he said.

Dr. Anderson estimated the body had been in the water between 48 and 72 hours.

Three teen-age boys found the body in the river while they were fishing about 6 a. m. The body, clad in long underwear, a T-shirt and socks, had been caught in an obstruction near the west bank under the Court avenue bridge.

After the coroner's announcement that death was not caused by drowning, Detective Chief R. E. O'Brien said: "We are working on the theory that this is murder."

The body was taken to Dunn's Funeral Home, where detectives said fingerprints, coupled with identifying marks and "partial identification" by members of the family, indicated the victim was Sanders.

Detectives reported investigation had revealed Sanders was seen Thursday morning in a tavern.

Police speculated Sanders subsequently had become involved in a fight in which he had been either killed or badly injured, and that his body then was thrown into the river.

Sanders, a semi-retired painter and paper-hanger, was born in Carlisle. He had been a semi-pro baseball pitcher for several Des Moines teams in the early 1900s.

Survivors, besides his son, Carver, are two other sons, Donald, of 3400 Ravina drive, and Gerald, of 5870 S. E. Nineteenth st.; and three daughters, Mrs. Millian Walker of 1147 Oak Park ave., Mrs. Betty Graves, of 3743 Bowdoin ave., and Mrs. Pauline DuBois, Clive.

Charles Edward
Sanders

Body of Man Found in River

The body of an unidentified man, about 50, was taken from the Des Moines river above the Court avenue bridge by police at 7 a. m. Saturday. **4-17-54**

Two Des Moines youths, Thomas Spagnola, 14, of 924 Second ave., and Harry Piagentini, 15, of 4200 S. E. Sixteenth st., sighted the body in the water while fishing along the river bank and notified police.

Dr. Walter Anderson, Polk county coroner, said the body had been in the water several days and was clothed in long underwear, a T-shirt and socks. He said the victim appeared to weigh about 165 pounds and was about 5 feet 9 inches tall.

The body was taken to Dunn's Funeral Home where fingerprints were to be taken in an effort to establish identification.